

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 STATE 268729

63

ORIGIN ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIE-00

INRE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 DHA-02 AID-05 EB-07 COME-00

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APPROVED BY ARA:HARYAN

ARA:PAF:PENIEBURG(SUBS)

H:WBRICHARDSON(SUBS)

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA IMMEDIATE

INFO AMCONSUL SAO PAULO IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, BR

SUBJECT: KENNEDY REMARKS ON BRAZIL

REF: BRASILIA 9842

1. SENATOR KENNEDY MADE REMARKS ON THE SENATE FLOOR NOVEMBER 10 AS PART OF LONGER PRESENTATION EXPRESSING CONCERN REGARDING HUMAN RIGHTS IN BRAZIL. TEXT FOLLOWS: BEGIN TEXT: I HAVE LONG BEEN CONCERNED WITH THE STRUGGLE OF THE BRAZILIAN PEOPLE TO ACHIEVE DIGNITY; FREEDOM, AND DEVELOPMENT IN THEIR OWN LAND, AND WITH THE U.S. ROLE IN THIS PROCESS. A CRISIS MAY WELL BE APPROACHING IN THAT COUNTRY.

THE BACKGROUND IS WELL KNOWN. THE BRAZILIAN MILITARY UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 STATE 268729

SEIZED POWER IN APRIL 1964, WITH U.S. SUPPORT, AND HAVE

RULED THE NATION SINCE.

A PERIOD OF MACRO ECONOMIC GROWTH FOLLOWED. THE POSITIVE GNP STATISTICS LULLED MANY FOREIGN OBSERVERS INTO FORGETTING THE UGLY SIDE OF THE PICTURE -- BOTH THE LACK OF AN EVEN DISTRIBUTION OF THE NEW BENEFITS AND THE REPRESSIVE NATURE OF THE AUTHORITARIAN REGIME. NOW, WITH THE TREBLING OF WORLD PETROLEUM CRUDE PRICES, THE BRAZILIAN ECONOMIC MIRACLE IS APPARENTLY IN GROWING DIFFICULTY. WHEN THE CURRENT PRESIDENT OF BRAZIL, GEN. ERNESTO GEISEL, TOOK OFFICE IN MARCH OF 1974, HE MADE A SERIES OF PUBLIC DECLARATIONS OF HIS INTENT TO PUT A STOP TO VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS BY THE SECURITY FORCES OF THE MILITARY GOVERNMENT, WHICH HAVE BEEN AMPLY DENOUNCED AND DOCUMENTED BY SUCH HIGHLY RESPECTED INTERNATIONAL GROUPS AS AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL AND THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF JURISTS. HE ALSO ENCOURAGED GREATER POLITICAL EXPRESSION. ALTHOUGH THERE APPARENTLY WAS AN EARLY REDUCTION IN THE NUMBER AND DEGREE OF SUCH VIOLATIONS IN CERTAIN PARTS OF THE COUNTRY, IT APPEARS THAT A CONTRARY TREND IS NOW IN MOTION. PRESIDENT GEISEL HAS NOT BEEN SUCCESSFUL IN PUTTING AN END TO THESE VIOLATIONS. IN SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER OF 1974, AN AMERICAN CITIZEN, THE REVEREND FRED B. MORRIS, WAS KIDNAPPED AND TORTURED BY THE FOURTH ARMY IN RECIFE. AS RECENTLY AS OCTOBER 19, THE JACK ANDERSON COLUMN RELATED NUMEROUS CASES OF ARBITRARY IMPRISONMENT AND TORTURE IN BRAZIL THIS YEAR.

WITH THIS BACKGROUND IN MIND, WE CAN PERHAPS UNDERSTAND BETTER THE SHOCKING EVENTS OF A WEEK AGO AND THE HIGH STAKES OF THE BRIEF CONFRONTATION WHICH TOOK PLACE ON THE CAMPUS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF SAO PAULO.

AT 8 A.M., SATURDAY, OCTOBER 25, THE INFORMATION I HAVE RECEIVED IS THAT AT THE REQUEST OF POLICE AUTHORITIES, A WELL-KNOWN TV NEWS COMMENTATOR, VLADAMIR HERZOG, PRESENTED HIMSELF AT THE POLICE HEADQUARTERS. SUBSEQUENTLY, THE POLICE CLAIMED THAT HE HAD WRITTEN A CONFESSION OF SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITIES. AT 4 P.M., THAT AFTERNOON, HE WAS FOUND DEAD IN HIS CELL.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 STATE 268729

THE POLICE CLAIMED IT WAS A SUICIDE, BUT THE JEWISH RELIGIOUS LEADERS OF SAO PAULO, EVIDENCING THEIR DISBELIEF OF THE OFFICIAL STORY, ALLOWED MR. HERZOG TO BE BURIED IN THE JEWISH CEMETERY OF SAO PAULO--WHICH COULD NOT HAVE OCCURRED ACCORDING TO JEWISH RELIGIOUS DOCTRINE IF THEY HAD BELIEVED THE DEATH HAD REALLY BEEN A SUICIDE.

AT THE FUNERAL ON THE 29TH OF THIS MONTH, THE CARDINAL ARCHBISHOP OF SAO PAULO, DOM PAULO EVARISTO ARNS, WAS PRESENT TO MANIFEST HIS SOLIDARITY WITH THE FAMILY, AND EXPRESS HIS CONCERN OVER THE DEATH. OCTOBER 31, THERE WAS AN ECUMENICAL RELIGIOUS SERVICE IN THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CATHEDRAL OF SAN PAULO WITH THE CHIEF RABBI OF SAO PAULO, THE CARDINAL-ARCHBISHOP OF SAO PAULO, AND LEADING PROTESTANT MINISTERS OF THE CITY, OFFICIATING.

SHORTLY AFTER THE DEATH OF MR. HERZOG, THE UNIVERSITY STUDENTS AND PROFESSORS OF THE CITY OF SAO PAULO, AND THE

JOURNALISTS, BEGAN TO PROTEST AGAINST WHAT THEY TERMED AN APPARENT MURDER-BY-TORTURE. THE SITUATION DEVELOPED RAPIDLY UNTIL OVER 14,000 UNIVERSITY STUDENTS FOUND THEMSELVES ENRIRCLED ON THEIR UNIVERSITY CAMPUS BY ARMY TROOPS IN TANKS AND TROOP CARRIERS. THEIR STUDENT PROTEST WAS THE FOCUS OF A PROTEST AGAINST THE USE OF ARBITRARY POWER. ALTHOUGH THE CONFRONATION EASED, IT COULD WELL HAVE FAR-REACHING CONSEQUENCES FOR THE PEOPLE OF BRAZIL.

I HAVE EXPRESSED MY CONCERN TO THE STATE DEPARTMENT. I ALSO BELIEVE THAT THE MEMBERS OF THE SENATE OUGHT TO TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION THESE VERY RECENT EVENTS AS THEY CONSIDER THE FOREIGN ASSISTANCE ACT BOTH ECONOMIC AND MILITARY, FOR 1976. AND I VIEW IT AS ESSENTIAL THAT THE HUMAN RIGHTS AMENDMENTS ADOPTED BY BOTH THE HOUSE AND SENATE BE INCLUDED IN THE FINAL CONFERENCE MEASURE, ENACTED AND IMPLEMENTED.

I ASK UNANIMOUS CONSENT TO HAVE PRINTED IN THE RECORD THE ARTICLES FROM HARPERS MAGAZINE - OCTOBER 1975 - WHICH UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 04 STATE 268729

DOCUMENTS MR. MORRIS' EXPERIENCE, THE JACK ANDERSON COLUMN OF OCTOBER 19, AND OTHER RELEVANT ARTICLES.

THERE BEING NO OBJECTION, THE ARTICLES WERE ORDERED TO BE PRINTED IN THE RECORD. END TEXT.

2.IF HARD PUSHED BY PRESS, YOU MAY WISH TO NOTE THAT SEN. KENNEDY HAS ON A NUMBER OF OCCASIONS EXPRESSED HIS CONCERN FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND THAT HIS COMMENTS ON INTERNAL CONDITIONS IN OTHER COUNTRIES REFLECT HIS PERSONAL VIEWS. KISSINGER

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